



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 12/15/2020	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Morgan Torell/(805) 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve the recommended responses to the 2019-20 Grand Jury report "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?"; and forward to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by January 5, 2021. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: 1. Adopt as the County's response to the referenced Grand Jury report "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?" the responses prepared by the Board of Supervisors to Recommendations 3 and 4; and 2. Direct the Clerk to forward the approved responses to the Presiding Judge of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court and the Grand Jury by January 5, 2021; and 3. Receive and file responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2019-20 report titled "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?"			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT ☒ Consent ☐ Presentation ☐ Hearing (Time Est. _____) ☐ Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS ☐ Resolutions ☐ Contracts ☐ Ordinances ☒ N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: ☐ 4/5th's Vote Required ☒ N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY ☒ N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW This item was prepared by the Administrative Office			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Morgan Torell, Administrative Analyst
Wade Horton, County Administrative Officer

DATE: 12/15/2020

SUBJECT: Request to approve the recommended responses to the 2019-20 Grand Jury report "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?"; and forward to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by January 5, 2021. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Adopt as the County's response to the referenced Grand Jury report "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?" the responses prepared by the Board of Supervisors to Recommendations 3 and 4; and
2. Direct the Clerk to forward the approved responses to the Presiding Judge of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court and the Grand Jury by January 5, 2021; and
3. Receive and file responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury's 2019-20 report titled "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?"

DISCUSSION

On November 5, 2020 the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury issued a report titled "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?" The report provides a discussion about dispatch operations in San Luis Obispo County. The Board is required to respond to Recommendations 3 and 4, and the Sheriff-Coroner is required to respond to Recommendations 2 and 3.

Under California Penal Code Section 933, the County must provide comments to the Presiding Judge no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report. The responses from the Board are due to the Presiding Judge by January 5, 2021 as requested in the Grand Jury report. Elected officials, including the Sheriff, must respond within 60 days and may respond directly to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury, which the Sheriff has done.

Grand Jury Recommendations 3 and 4 and Board Responses:

Recommendation 3: The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors should require the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff to provide a clear, long-term pricing for dispatch service with and without the proposed co-dispatch center.

Response: *The Board adopts the Sheriff-Coroner's response.*

Recommendation 4: The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors should include the reallocation of space in the EOC building for expanded dispatch operations in their current negotiations with PG&E regarding the closing of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in 2025.

Response: *Will not be implemented, at this time. Amendment one to a contract between the County and PG&E is on the Board of Supervisor's agenda on December 8, 2020 to allow for lease extensions through 2029 of the Emergency Operations Facility at 1525 Kansas Avenue in San Luis Obispo. The amendment also includes transfer of ownership of the building to the County on January 1, 2030. Additionally, the County is using a design-build bidding process for a new co-located dispatch center. The facility is planned to allow for estimated expansion over the next 20 years.*

Responses from the Sheriff-Coroner to Recommendations 2 and 3:

Recommendation 2: The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff and Cal Fire should modify their contingency plans for dispatch to all seven cities into a viable alternative to the proposed co-dispatch center.

Response: *Will not be implemented, at this time. Contracting dispatch services is the choice for each incorporated city. Even though there is likely cost savings, there are other factors they must consider, such as long-term dependencies on service and the loss of some control. If all cities chose to contract for services, the Sheriff's current facility would not be large enough to accommodate them. If PG&E were to vacate their offices in the EOC building it is possible the vacated floorspace could be used to expand existing Sheriff's dispatch operations, however, as the Grand Jury has noted in its report, the EOC building was built in 1984 and does not meet a number of current code requirements. If PG&E agreed to vacate the building in 2025 the County would have to dedicate funds to a 41 year old building in order to bring it up to current building code requirements and to make the necessary changes to the floorplan to accommodate an expansion of the Sheriff's dispatch center. This change would also require a configuration or relocation of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Moving the current EOC would not be practical and would be costly.*

The current plan for co-located dispatch is driven by; inadequate space in both the Sheriff's Office Dispatch and Cal Fire Dispatch's aging centers and to establish one County Public-Safety Answering Point (PSAP). The design of the new center is based on future growth and expected to last the next 50-years. With the new building, the Sheriff's Office and Cal Fire could accommodate contracting all the incorporated cities, however this would remain the choice of each city.

Recommendation 3: The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors should require the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff to provide a clear, long-term pricing for dispatch service with and without the proposed co-dispatch center.

Response: *Will not be implemented, at this time. It would not be prudent to offer long-term pricing for dispatch service to any additional cities until the issue of sufficient floorspace is resolved. This requires the Board of Supervisors to decide if they want to direct public funds to a 41-year-old building to make it usable as a co-located dispatch center and relocating the Counties Emergency Operations Center. The Sheriff's Office remains committed to the establishment of a co-located dispatch center with Cal Fire as the best possible way to improve the coordination of emergency resources to the public.*

Once a co-located dispatch center is constructed the Sheriff's Office would support the Grand Jury's recommendation, provided that the floorspace for Sheriff's dispatch in the proposed building is not reduced in order to reduce construction costs. Such a reduction of floorspace would hinder our ability to expand dispatch operations should any of the cities choose to contract with the Sheriff's Office for dispatch services and future growth.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Board drafted the recommended responses to the Grand Jury report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Costs for preparing this response are included in current department budgets.

RESULTS

This response meets the legal requirements and time frames for responding to a Grand Jury report under California Penal Code Section 933.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Attachment A - Grand Jury Report: "Joint Agency Dispatch: Better Together?"
- 2 Attachment B - Sheriff's Responses